

FIRST AID



S**SOMEONE** is injured. Send for a doctor ! Until he arrives we must help the patient by doing the right things. These we can do if we have learnt First Aid. Sometimes proper equipment is not available. Then the First Aider must improvise; at a pinch, indeed, **baking soda** for scalds and burns from fire and washing soda to neutralise burns from acid. There are few homes and fewer factories in Britain today without their first-aid boxes and the contents of these remind us at once of our dependence on the products of the chemical industry, and the work of the research chemist. In them we shall find chemicals like iodine, boracic acid, sal volatile and aspirin, anti-gas ointment; as well as dressings, cotton wool and adhesive tape, all of which have been chemically treated. First-aid points or posts at factories or works will have a wider range of chemicals, including colloidal silver and medicinal paraffin for eye treatment, organic products like acriflavine as an antiseptic and gentian violet for burns. Under the stimulus of total war, chemical and medical research workers are constantly developing new and more effective products for First Aid and already some of the wonder-working sulphonamides are being incorporated in ointments which may be used with safety by the First Aider. As each new product or new medical use for old products is found by the British chemist, the British chemical industry makes them available to First Aiders in British homes and aid posts, whether for the treatment of accidents or of wounds caused by enemy action.



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